

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (GARBLES THOUGHOUT)

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FOLLOWING REPEAT USUN 3978 ACTION SECSTATE 11 OCT

QUOTE

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SUBJ: LOS CONFERENCE AND IOPZ ITEM -- SRI LANKA

SPEAKING AT PM 9 OCT PLENARY, SRI LANKA PERMREP AND LOS
CONFERENCE PRESIDENT AMERASINGHE AND THE FOLLOW NG TO
SAY ON THE CONFERENCE AND THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF
PEACE ITEM:

THE SECOND SESSION OF THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON THE LAW OF THE SEA DID NOT AND COULD NOT SECURE FINAL AGREEMENT
ON A TREATY BUT IT DID, THROUGH AN EXHAUSTIVE EXAMINATION
OF THE PRINCIPAL ISSUES, LAY THE FOUNDATION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL
COVENANT THAT WE ALL SO FERVENTLY DESIRE. AS I STATED
IN CARACAS, WE MUST NOT LET HISTORIANS SAY, IN THE WORKDS
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OF SIMON BOLIVER, THAT "WE PLOUGHED THE SEAS". LET US

RATHER BY OUR JOINT EFFORTS AND THROUGH THE DISPLAY OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING, CO-OPERATION, TOLERANCE AND GOOD WILL PERMIT HISTORY TO RECORD THATT HELPED FUTURE GENERATIONS TO GARNER THE WEALTH OF THE OCEANS FOR THE OENEFIT OF ALL MANKIND WITH SPECIAL REGARD TO THE INTERESTS AND NEEDS OF DEVELOPING NATIONS AND THAT WE BEQUEATHED TO THEM TO BE HELD IN TRUST FOR ALL TIME THE COMMON HRITAGE OF MANKIND TO BE SHARED AND ENJOYED IN A SPIRIT OF FRATERNITY AND IN COMPLETE PEACE AND TRANQUILLITY. THIS IS THE TASK THAT CONFRONTS US WHEN WE NEXT MEET.

THE REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN HAS TO BE PRESENTED TO THIS ESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY N ACCORDANCE WITH RESOLUTION 3080 (XXVIII). WE HAVE NO ILLUSIONS AS TO THE PROPECTS FOR GIVING PRACTICAL SHAPE AND FORM TO WHAT MIGHT AHPEAR TO BE AN IDEAL CONCEPT. THE GREAT POWERS, EXCLUDING CHINA WHICH IS A MEMBER OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE, HAVE NOT SHOWN THE AMOUNT OF INTEREST THAT WE MIGHTHAVE EXPECTED OF THEM. WE HOPE THAT THE MUCH TALKED OF DETENTE IS NOT JUST IDLE CHATTER AND THAT ITS ATTAINMENT WILL HELP THEM EXCLUDE THE INDIAN OCEAN FROM THEIR POLICY OF COMPETITIVE EXPANSION OF ARMAMENTS IN THAT AREA IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE. I REFER TO THE POWERS INVOLVED IN THAT TALKED OF DETENTE.

THE REALIZATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN PEACE ZONE CONCEPT IS NOT THE RESPONSIBILITY, HOWEVER, OF THE GREAT POWERS ALONE. WE OF THE LITTORAL AND HINTERLAND STATES HAVE THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY OF COMPOSING OUR OWN DIFFERENCES, SETTLING OUR DISPUTES BY PEACEFUL MEANS AND RESISTING THE TEMPTATION OF REPEATING THE MISTAKES WHICH WE IMPUTE TO THE GREAT POWERS. THE MAJOR MARITIME POWERS AND ALL THOSE WHO DEPEND ON THE UNRESTRICTED PASSAGE OF COMMERCIAL TRAFFIC THROUGH THE INDIAN OCEAN MAY BE ASSURED THAT SUCH PASSAGE WILL BE GRANTED TO THEM IN ANY ERRANGEMENTS TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE DECLARATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE. THE LINES OF COMMUNICATION ACROSS THE INDIAN OCEAN MUST BE KEPT OPEN FOR VESSELS AND AIRCRAFT OF ALL KINDS AND OF ALL NATIONS SUBJECT ONLY TO THE CONDITION

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THAT THEIR PASSAGE ACROSS AND OVER THE INDIAN OCEAN DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A THREAT TO THE PEACE, GOOD ORDER, SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THE LITTORAL AND HINTERLAND STATES.

BENNETT UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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